

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01346 160952Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2161

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1346

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KNCC LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK ABOUT US TROOP WITH-SRAWAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

REF: SEOUL 1313

1. KNCC SENT PRESIDENT PAK FOLLOWING LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1977. LETTER WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO PRESS OR PUBLIC AND COPY WAS HANDED TO EMBASSY IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"TO: PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

MAY GOD BE WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY AS YOU DEVOTE YOURSELF TO GOVERNING THE NATION. THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN KOREA, WHICH HAS SUDDENLY BECOME AN ISSUE. SINCE THE ATTENTION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE HAS FASTENED ON THIS ISSUE AND SINCE THE ISSUE IS INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SEVERAL POINTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01346 160952Z

WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE EVIL SCHEME OF KIM IL-SONG OF NORTH KOREA WHO HAS PROPOSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES AS A CONDITION FOR SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE. WE REALIZE TOO THAT, IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND OF THE STATE OF OPINION IN THE U.S., THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES MAY BE PREDICTED AS UNAVOIDABLE, BUT WE CANNOT BUT OPPOSE SUCH A WITHDRAWAL, KNOWING AS WE DO THE AMBITION OF THE NORTH

KOREAN REGIME TO COMMUNIZE THE PENINSULA. THEREFORE, WE, THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE KOREAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OPPOSE THE WITHDRAWAL AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY SUGGESTED TO KIM IL-SONG THE CONCLUSION OF A SOUTH-NORTH NON-AGGRESSION PACT AS A CONDITION FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IN YOUR DESIRE TO BREAK THE CURRENT STALEMATE IN THE SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE AND TO MAINTAIN LEADERSHIP IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, SINCE KIM IL-SONG'S AMBITION TO ATTACK THE SOUTH REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER, AND SINCE THERE EXIST NO VALID INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES TO PREVENT AN ATTACK, WE BELIEVE THE CONCLUSION OF A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH NORTH KOREA WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER. WE DEVOUTLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PUBLIC'S UNEASINESS IN CONSIDERING THIS ISSUE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAK TONG-SON SCANDAL WHICH HAS RISEN AS AN IRRITANT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. WILL NOT END WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT HE WAS A PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTS. THIS CASE HAS DONE GREAT DAMAGE TO THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. IN TURN, THE DIMINUTION OF TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DIRECTLY THREATENS THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND STRIKES A SERIOUS BLOW TO NATIONAL PRIDE. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THAT THIS KIND OF CORRUPTION BY BUSINESSMEN IS WIDESPREAD ABROAD, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD CORRECTING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01346 160952Z

SUCH ALLEGED ABUSES.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROBLEMS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR NATION HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR BEHIND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IN KOREA. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE OUR INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AND TO RECOVER THE TRUST AND COOPERATION OF OUR ALLIES, WE DEVOUTLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL ADOPT POLICIES WHICH WILL ELIMINATE THE SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY. WE HOPE YOU WILL RELEASE DEMOCRATIC FIGURES NOW IN CONFINEMENT AND ALSO, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, REPEAL THE EMERGENCY MEASURE.

4. PUBLIC OPINION BELIEVES THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES IS A SERIOUS MATTER BECAUSE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, SUCH A STEP WOULD WEAKEN COOPERATION WITH OUR ALLIES AND THREATEN OUR RIGHT TO SURVIVAL. THEREFORE, WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT, UNDERSTANDING THE VIEWS OF THE CITIZENRY, WILL VOICE STRONG OPPOSITION BOTH AT

HOME AND ABROAD TO SUCH A WITHDRAWAL.

THESE PROPOSALS EXPRESS THE TRUE CONCERN OF THOSE
GATHERED AT THE MEETING OF THE KOREAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
ON FEBRUARY 7, 1977. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE PROPOSALS
CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, BUT
WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION
AND THE PATRIOTIC MOTIVES WHICH CAUSE US TO SPEAK OUT.
(SIGNED) PRESIDENT: YI CH'ON-HWAN & DIRECTOR: KIM KWAN-SOK"
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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